रक्षा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन) (क) जी. नहीं,

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

MODERNISATION OF ORDNANCE DEPOTS

3122. SHRI RAM SINGH RATHWA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken the work of modernisation of ordnance depots in the country during the last two years;

(b) if so, what are the depot-wise details thereof ; and

(c) what scheme have been formulated in this regard during the year 1993-94 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c) Modernisation of the Ordnance Depots is a continuous process. During the last two years, several equipment for communication, security and fire fighting, material handling and office automation were provided to the various depots in the country. Government has also taken up a major modernisation programme and Central Ordnance Depot, Kanpur has been selected as a first step. The process of selection of a Consultant for preparation of the detailed projedt report has been taken up. The modernisation of other depots shall be carried out after the successful completion of the modernisation of COD, Kanpur.

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN BUILDING INDIAN NAVY

3123. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to seek private sector participation in building Indian Navy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

US OFFER ON LIGHT COMBAT AIRCRAFT

3124. SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States have offered help to India for accomplishing the Light Combat Aircraft project;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the United States have started collaboration with India on the LCA in certain specialised areas; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the offer and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) An Agreement was signed in 1987 betwen the Govt. of India and the US Govt. for cooperation in the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) programme. The agreement envisages Govt-to-Govt. cooperation through laboratory-to-laboratory interaction and training in advanced aeronautical technologies of relevance to the LCA. The agreement also enable direct commercial sales of items needed for the programme. The US Govt. has also issued a document in 1987 on technologies and products which have been cleared for release to India and briefed the US aerospace industry.

In 1992, a contract was concluded between Aeronautical Development Estab-